

**CLAIMS**

We claim:

- 1        1. A folding dog box assembly comprising:
  - 2            a top panel;
  - 3            two side panels;
  - 4            a rear panel;
  - 5            a base panel; and
  - 6            a front panel;  
7            said front panel having an entrance frame therein and a  
8            framed grate pivotally mounted above said entrance frame for  
9            opening and closing said framed grate relative to said entrance  
10          frame;
  - 11          said framed grate having a lockable closure latch at its  
12          base, and said front panel having a latch keeper mounted thereon  
13          cooperating with the closure latch;
  - 14          each of said panels having an inner peripheral edge and  
15          spaced pairs of half-hinges along the inner peripheral edge; and  
16          means for mating the half hinges together, thereby securing  
17          said panels to form a closed dog box.

1       2. The dog box of claim 1, wherein said side panels and  
2       said rear panel each have a louvered ventilator therein.

1       3. The dog box of claim 1, wherein said panels define  
2       internal pockets, the dog box further comprising foam insulation  
3       filling the pockets.

1       4. The dog box of claim 1, wherein each of said panels  
2       comprises a plurality of beams defining a panel frame having  
3       pockets, the dog box further comprising foam insulation filling  
4       the pockets.

1       5. The dog box of claim 4, wherein said panels further  
2       comprise an inner skin made from aluminum alloy sheet adhesively  
3       attached to said panel frame.

1       6. The dog box of claim 4, wherein each said panel frame  
2       has an exterior side and an interior side, each said panel frame  
3       further comprising an aluminum alloy sheet skin covering the  
4       interior side and an outer skin covering the exterior side, the  
5       outer skin being selected from the group consisting of an aluminum  
6       alloy sheet skin and a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sheet skin.

1       7. The dog box of claim 4, wherein said side and rear  
2 panels each further comprise a plurality of beams disposed within  
3 the panels frames defining a rectangular ventilator opening having  
4 a top beam and a bottom beam, and a pair of angles having a first  
5 flange attached to the top and bottom flanges, respectively, and a  
6 second flange extending into the ventilator opening to form top  
7 and bottom ventilator jambs, respectively, the dog box further  
8 comprising a louvered ventilator inserted into the ventilator  
9 openings of said side and rear panels and abutting the ventilator  
10 jambs.

1       8. The dog box of claim 1, wherein said framed grate  
2 further comprises an upper slot, an end slot, and a lower slot  
3 extending outward from the framed grate.

1       9. The dog box of claim 8, further comprising a cold  
2 weather closure panel having air holes defined therein, the  
3 closure panel being slidably received in said framed grate slots.

1       10. The dog box of claim 1, wherein said front and rear  
2 panels each have an inner surface and vertical edges, the dog box  
3 further comprising a plurality of angles having a first flange  
4 attached to the inner surfaces of said front and rear panels along  
5 the vertical edges thereof, and a second flange overlapping the  
6 side panels vertically.

1       11. The dog box of claim 10, wherein said top panel has a  
2 bottom surface and a periphery, the dog box further comprising a  
3 plurality of angles the periphery of the bottom surface of said  
4 top panel, each said angle having a flange overlapping the front,  
5 side, and rear panels.

1       12. The dog box of claim 1, further comprising a louvered  
2 ventilator disposed in at least one of said panels, the ventilator  
3 having a drip edge forming an awning above the ventilator in order  
4 to prevent rain from entering the dog box through the ventilator.

1       13. The dog box of claim 1, further comprising at least one  
2 handle mounted on each said side panel.

1       14. The dog box of claim 1, further comprising a plurality  
2 of height adjustable feet mounted underneath said base panel.

1       15. The dog box of claim 1, further comprising a plurality  
2 of insulation strips extending around said base panel, said top  
3 panel, and said front and rear panels.

1       16. The dog box of claim 1, further comprising a handle  
2 pivotally mounted on said framed grate.

1       17. The dog box of claim 16, wherein said handle is  
2 generally cylindrical, having a first end having an aperture  
3 defined therein and a second end, the handle further including:

4           a pivot pin extending through the aperture in the first end;

5           a cross piece disposed on the second end;

6           a securing bulb positioned along the handle cooperating with  
7 a receiver disposed on the top panel when the grate is in an open  
8 position; and

9           a spacer disposed on the handle in order to keep the handle  
10 spaced away from the framed grate when the handle is hanging  
11 vertically in order to aid in grasping the cross piece.

1           18. A folding dog box assembly, comprising:  
2           a top panel;  
3           two side panels;  
4           a rear panel;  
5           a base panel; and  
6           a front panel, having an entrance frame defined therein;  
7           a framed grate pivotally mounted above the entrance frame  
8           for opening and closing the framed grate relative to the entrance  
9           frame;  
10          a louvered ventilator disposed in each of the side panels  
11          and in the rear panel;  
12          a lockable closure latch attached to the framed grate and a  
13          cooperating latch keeper attached to the front panel adjacent the  
14          entrance frame;  
15          a plurality of spaced pairs of half-hinges attached to each  
16          of the panels; and  
17          means for joining the half-hinges in order to secure the  
18          panels to form a closed dog box.

1       19. The dog box of claim 18, wherein each of said panels  
2 comprises:

3           a plurality of beams joined together to define a rectangular  
4 panel frame having an interior side and an exterior side;

5           an aluminum alloy sheet attached to and covering the  
6 interior side of the panel frame and forming an inner skin;

7           a sheet selected from the group consisting of an aluminum  
8 alloy sheet and a polyvinyl chloride sheet attached to and  
9 covering the exterior side of the panel frame and forming an outer  
10 skin; and

11          foam insulation disposed in the panel frame between the  
12 inner skin and the outer skin.